

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

ORDER NO. 20,079

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served February 22, 2023

Application of GEOCOM GROUP, LLC,)
for a Certificate of Authority --)
Irregular Route Operations)

Case No. AP-2023-001

Applicant seeks a certificate of authority to transport passengers in irregular route operations between points in the Metropolitan District, restricted to transportation in vehicles with a seating capacity of less than 16 persons only, including the driver. The application is unopposed.

This is the third application filed by entities controlled by applicant's owner, George Ezimorah. The first application was filed in 2014 on behalf of Geocom Group Company, LLC, a limited liability company formed in Maryland. The application was approved, but the issuance of a certificate of authority was expressly made contingent on filing additional documents and passing a vehicle inspection conducted by Commission staff.¹ Geocom Group Company, LLC, failed to satisfy the conditions for issuance of operating authority within the time allotted, thereby voiding the Commission's approval.²

Applicant applied and was granted operating authority last year, but the issuance of a certificate of authority was again expressly made contingent on applicant filing additional documents and passing a vehicle inspection conducted by Commission staff.³ Applicant failed to satisfy the conditions for issuance of operating authority within the time allotted, thereby voiding the Commission's approval for a second time.⁴

The Compact, Title II, Article XI, Section 7(a), authorizes the Commission to issue a certificate of authority if it finds that the proposed transportation is consistent with the public interest and that the applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed

¹ See *In re Geocom Grp. Co.*, No. AP-14-315, Order No. 15,295 (Jan. 7, 2015) (conditionally granting Certificate No. 2674).

² See *id.* (grant of authority void upon applicant's failure to timely satisfy conditions of issuance); Commission Regulation No. 66-01 (failure to comply with conditions of grant within 180 days voids approval).

³ See *In re Geocom Grp., LLC*, No. AP-22-028, Order No. 19,730 (Mar. 30, 2022) (conditionally granting Certificate No. 2674).

⁴ See *id.* (grant of authority void upon applicant's failure to timely satisfy conditions of issuance); Commission Regulation No. 66-01 (failure to comply with conditions of grant within 180 days voids approval).

transportation properly, conform to the provisions of the Compact, and conform to the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission.

Applicant verifies that: (1) applicant owns or leases, or has the means to acquire through ownership or lease, one or more motor vehicles meeting the Commission's safety requirements and suitable for the transportation proposed in this application; (2) applicant owns, or has the means to acquire, a motor vehicle liability insurance policy that provides the minimum amount of coverage required by Commission regulations; and (3) applicant has access to, is familiar with and will comply with the Compact, the Commission's rules, regulations and orders, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations as they pertain to transportation of passengers for hire.

Based on the evidence in this record, the Commission finds that the proposed transportation is consistent with the public interest and that applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed transportation properly, conform to the provisions of the Compact, and conform to the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission.

Applicant is cautioned that in the event it fails to obtain a certificate of authority in this proceeding for failure to timely satisfy the conditions stipulated in this order, the three-strike rule in Regulation No. 66-01 will bar applicant from reapplying for WMATC operating authority for a period of one year as measured from the end of the 180-day compliance period associated with this application.⁵

In closing, we note that applicant's owner holds a license from the District of Columbia Department of For-Hire Vehicles authorizing him to drive a taxicab. Taxicabs and other vehicles that perform a bona fide taxicab service are exempt from certification under the Compact.⁶ Applicant is admonished that it may neither use a taxicab in WMATC operations nor use a WMATC vehicle in taxicab operations.⁷

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That upon applicant's timely compliance with the requirements of this order, Certificate of Authority No. 2674 shall be issued to Geocom Group, LLC, 6337 Landover Road, #103, Cheverly, MD 20785-1337.

2. That applicant may not transport passengers for hire between points in the Metropolitan District pursuant to this order unless and until a certificate of authority has been issued in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

⁵ See *In re First Metro. Cmty. Servs., Inc.*, No. AP-22-015, Order No. 19,711 (Mar. 7, 2022) (applying three-strike rule in Regulation No. 66-01 to applications by successive entities controlled by the same person).

⁶ *In re Tigist Habtewold, t/a ABMT Transp.*, No. AP-11-015, Order No. 12,721 (Feb. 9, 2011).

⁷ *Id.*

3. That applicant is hereby directed to file the following documents and present its revenue vehicle(s) for inspection within the 180-day maximum permitted in Commission Regulation No. 66: (a) evidence of insurance pursuant to Commission Regulation No. 58; (b) an original and four copies of a tariff or tariffs in accordance with Commission Regulation No. 55; (c) a vehicle list stating the year, make, model, serial number, fleet number, license plate number (with jurisdiction) and seating capacity of each vehicle to be used in revenue operations; (d) a copy of the for-hire vehicle registration card, and a lease as required by Commission Regulation No. 62 if applicant is not the registered owner, for each vehicle to be used in revenue operations; and (e) proof of current safety inspection of said vehicle(s) by or on behalf of the United States Department of Transportation, the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Virginia.

4. That the grant of authority herein shall be void and the application shall stand denied upon applicant's failure to timely satisfy the conditions of issuance prescribed herein.

FOR THE COMMISSION:



Jeffrey M. Lehmann
Executive Director